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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 16 | Humidity 52% Partly Cloudy Sensex 77,964 | Nifty 23,616 | Gold 77,015 | Silver 90,499 | Dollar 85.62 | Euro 89.20 | GBP 107.31

SCHOOLS IN DOCK

Zero admissions in 1,078 schools, no teachers in 1,572 schools; 7,821 schools have just 1 teacher

PAGE 2

TALL STORY SHORT

Without height gauge, underpass at Palace Road gets damaged often as vehicles too tall to fit pass through

PAGE 3

Traffic police use laser-based tracking systems to monitor vehicles speeds up to 500 mt away to stop speed devils in their tracks; at Sumanahalli Flyover, 15 violators fined in 2 hours

FAST AND SPURIOUS

Speed-limit breakers: Mostly found at no-signal corridors

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In a bid to tackle the rising number of accidents caused due to speeding on city flyovers and highways, the traffic police initiated an awareness drive using advanced laser-based speed enforcement cameras known as Laser Trac. During the awareness drive on Sumanahalli Flyover, officers set the speed limit to 50 km/h for two-wheelers and 60 km/h for light motor vehicles. Within two hours, nearly 15 violators were fined, with vehicles clocking speeds as high as 91 km/h, which is nearly double the permissible limit.

This awareness was a part of mass media campaign to reduce speeding, which has been implemented by the Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (KSRSA), and is being paired with enforcement by State and City Police.

What are Laser Trac cameras

The Laser Trac cameras represent technology in speed enforcement. Equipped with professional-grade laser-based tracking systems, these devices can monitor vehicle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"On signal-free roads like this, where there's no need to stop frequently, there's no justification for speeding. Yet, we see many accidents due to reckless driving

—Traffic police officer

Flower power

City's cut flower biz grows as market becomes key revenue generator for state

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The flower industry in Bengaluru is experiencing significant growth, with rising demand for various cut flowers, including roses, across the country. The market has become a key revenue generator for the state, with an estimated trade value of Rs. 80-100 crore per year. Notably, there has been an increased demand for flowers grown in the state's polyhouses.

Previously, the state produced around 20 lakh roses daily. However, this number has risen to a daily production of 30 lakh flowers since November. These flowers are being sent to various cities including Kolkata, New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. Moreover, exports to foreign countries are expected to surge during January and February, driven by favourable prices, much to the delight of flower growers. The government also offers subsidies for polyhouse flower cultivation.

"After a difficult period, flower growers were facing severe challenges. Despite cultivation, no one was purchasing the flowers. We decided to halt flower farming for a while, but now, both the crop and prices are doing well," said Srinivas, a flower grower from a polyhouse near Devanahalli.

The favourable climate for flower cultivation in the state, particularly for polyhouse-grown flowers, has contributed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Stories behind chaos

Mental Wental written & directed by Prithesh Bhandary, is a play where 4 people are in a room getting treated for being mental. One for being angry once, one for following his passion, one for being unmarried at the age of 36 and one for liking someone of the same gender.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: January 7, 7:15 pm

02 Debut act

Tanmayi Sudhakar presents her Rangapravesha, "Hariharaarpanam." She is the daughter of Shivapriya and Sudhakar & a disciple of Acharya Dr Raksha Karthik for the past nine years. Her Rangapravesha signifies a major milestone in her journey as a Bharatanatyam dancer, showcasing her mastery of this classical art form and her devotion to the tradition.
Where: JSS Auditorium, Jayanagar 8th Block
When: January 11, 5 pm

03 Strum Coldplay way

A Date with Coldplay: Learn ukulele while diving into the world of Coldplay. One shall not only pick up the basics of playing the ukulele but also master a Coldplay classic by the end of the session.
Where: My School of Rock, Koramangala 8th Block
When: January 7 to 12

04 Breathe in, breathe out

Somatic Breathwork: This workshop will offer you simple tools that you can bring into your life for a fuller and livelier breathing experience. Join in for a gentle and exploratory journey into your breath and bodily patterns. Suitable for ages 16 and above.
Where: Shoonya – Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Lalbagh Road
When: January 11, 11 am to 1 pm

05 Create resin art

Resin Clock Workshop: Discover the art of crafting stunning resin masterpieces in black, blue, gold, etc, reminiscent of tranquil skies and ethereal galaxies. All materials will be provided.
Where: January 7 to 22
When: Art Beat, HSR Layout

Education is at standstill in many schools in state

Concerning rates of enrollments & educators in K'taka: Zero admissions in 1,078 schools, no teachers in 1,572 schools; 7,821 schools have just 1 teacher, notes report

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PIC FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

According to the UDISE+ 2023-24 report, 2,74,818 students are enrolled in single-teacher schools

Schools in Karnataka are facing significant challenges with declining student enrollments and a shortage of teachers. Alarmingly, 1,572 schools in the state operate without any teachers, while 7,821 schools function with just one teacher, according to the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) 2023-24 report released by the Central School Education Department.

The report, prepared in line with the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), revealed that 2,74,818 students are enrolled in single-teacher schools. However, it was also noted that 1,078 schools have not recorded even a single student enrollment this year.

Teacher allocation & enrollment decline

The classification of schools into foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary levels highlights the lack of proper teacher allocation, which experts believe is contributing to the declining student enrollment. Factors such as students transferring to other schools after pre-primary education and migration of parents have also impacted enrollment figures.

The number of students enrolling in both government and private schools has shown a downward trend. "Government schools have seen a significant drop in enrollment, with 49,85,661 students enrolled in 2023-24 compared to 53,27,221 in 2022-23, marking a decline of 3,41,560 students," the report added. Private schools have also experienced a decrease, with 54,80,677 students enrolled in 2023-24, down from 55,59,281 in the previous academic year—a reduction of 78,604 students.

Possible reasons for declining numbers

"Falling birth rates in southern India and the lack of measures to address the teacher shortage are affecting enrollment and the quality of education," said education expert Vasudev Sharma.

The shift to Aadhaar-based enrollment processes this year has also played a role in the reduction. "Previously, the government allowed double-entry enrollments to avail of various schemes, but this was not done this year," noted D Shashikumar, General Secretary of KAMS.

Enrollment trends over years

According to the report, the total number of schools in Karnataka, including government, aided, and private institutions, stands at 75,868 in 2024, with an enrollment of 1,19,26,303 students. This is a decrease compared to 1,23,98,654 students in 2022-23, 1,20,92,381 in 2021-22, and 1,18,56,736 in 2020-21.

Grade-1 enrollment statistics

Out of the total Grade-1 enrollments of 9,45,325 students in 2024, 3,91,940 were previously enrolled in Anganwadi centres. Among the state's 75,868 schools, 64.99% are government-run, 25.76% are private, 9.24% are aided, and 0.01% fall under other categories.

Enrollment numbers over 4 years

2020-21	1,18,56,736
2021-22	1,20,92,381
2022-23	1,23,98,654
2023-24	1,19,26,303

Aero India 2025: Get set for runway to billion opportunities

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Bengaluru is gearing up to host the 15th edition of 'Aero India,' Asia's largest aerospace and defence exhibition, at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka from February 10 to 14, 2025.

With this year's theme, 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities,' the event aims to foster partnerships between Indian and global firms, accelerating indigenisation and enhancing India's role in the global aerospace value chain.

Officials confirmed that the first three days of the event (February 10 to 12) will focus on business, while February 13 and 14 are designated as public days, allowing visitors to witness spectacular air displays and explore static exhibitions showcasing an array of military platforms.

"Aero India 2025 is an opportunity to promote strategic partnerships with friendly nations," officials said.

Key highlights of Aero India 2025

The event will feature a curtain raiser, an inaugural ceremony, the Defence Ministers' Conclave, the CEOs' Roundtable, and the Manthan Start-Up Event. Alongside a sprawling exhibition area, the India Pavilion will showcase cutting-edge indigenous defence technologies, emphasising India's Make-in-India initiative.

Air display during Aero India 2023 at Yelahanka Airbase in Bengaluru

The Defence Ministers' Conclave, themed 'BRIDGE—Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement,' will address evolving geopolitical dynamics and mutual prosperity. A series of bilateral meetings involving the Raksha Mantri, Raksha Rajya Mantri, Chief of Defence Staff, and other dignitaries are planned to bolster defence and aerospace ties with global partners.

Spotlight on start-ups & innovation

The event will also focus on promoting Indian start-ups through an exclusive iDEX Pavilion, showcasing cutting-edge technologies and products developed by innovative entrepreneurs.

"Dynamic aerobatic displays and live technology demonstrations will provide an immersive experience, highlighting the potential of modern aerospace platforms and technologies," officials added.

A global gathering

Seminars on various aerospace and defence themes will complement the event. Notably, the previous edition of Aero India witnessed participation from over seven lakh visitors, dignitaries from 98 countries, and 809 exhibitors, including businesses, start-ups, MSMEs, and investors.

Tall task: Without height gauge, this underpass is taking too many knocks

Complaint filed with BBMP after welding joint at Maharani Underpass Bridge comes off; problem recurring as heavy vehicles keep passing under low structure

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KAUSHIK JN

BBMP officials promptly removed the overhanging piece and carried out minor repairs at Maharani Underpass on Palace Road after a complaint was filed on Sunday

A persistent safety hazard continues to endanger commuters at the Maharani Underpass Bridge on Palace Road, where the absence of a height gauge has led to repeated damage to the structure.

The most recent incident involved a welding joint of an iron rod coming apart, leaving it hanging precariously and raising serious concerns among motorists. Despite temporary fixes by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the core issue of tall vehicles brushing against the underpass remains unresolved for over a year.

On Sunday, a complaint was filed with the BBMP regarding the damaged welding joint. While BBMP officials promptly removed the overhanging piece and carried out minor repairs, the recurring problem lies in heavy trucks and tall vehicles frequently scraping and crushing against the underpass. Traffic police warn that allowing such vehicles to pass will only lead to further structural damage.

Over the past year, the BBMP has attempted to address the problem twice by conducting repairs and installing an iron rod as a protective measure. However, without a height gauge to restrict the entry of oversized vehicles, these temporary fixes have proven ineffective.

> **"We have installed height gauges at least twice, but during the night, trucks have damaged them. Even if we reinstall them, the drivers often break them again, either due to negligence or poor visibility**

"We encounter this issue regularly. Temporary measures like boards have been set up and we divert such trucks but trucks still get stuck when there's no supervision," said a traffic police official.

A particularly severe incident in November saw a 10-wheeler truck getting stuck under the bridge, causing hours of traffic disruption and requiring significant effort to remove. The traffic police recently wrote to the BBMP, emphasising the urgent need for a height gauge to prevent such incidents. However, no action has been taken to implement a permanent solution.

Even height gauges not safe

"We have installed height gauges at least twice, but during the night, trucks have damaged them. Even if we reinstall them, the drivers often break them again, either due to negligence or poor visibility caused by inadequate lighting. We have temporarily put up signboards, but they too go unnoticed," said Traffic DCP West Anitha B.

Motorists using the underpass frequently expressed safety concerns,

saying continued negligence could result in serious accidents. The absence of a height gauge allows high container vehicles to enter the underpass, repeatedly damaging the structure and creating hazards for all commuters.

Accident claims 10-year-old

A road accident claimed the life of a 10-year-old boy, a student of Caramel Teresa School, on Monday morning. The incident occurred on Hagadur Main Road near IOC Petrol pump around 8.25 am.

The boy, identified as Khagendra Doppalapaudi, was heading to school accompanied by his father, Rajesh Doppalapaudi (45), who is a manager at TCS on a two-wheeler.

According to the police, Rajesh attempted to overtake a tractor, but while doing so, an SUV coming from the opposite direction collided with the bike. The impact caused Khagendra to fall to the left side of the road, where he was run over by the tractor.

The father immediately rushed his injured son to Manipal Hospital, but the boy was declared brought dead.

The drivers of both vehicles involved in the accident, Amaresh (30), the tractor driver, and Nehmad Pasha, the SUV driver, have been arrested. The Whitefield Traffic Police have registered a case, and investigations are underway. **BMB**

Cylinder blast hurts 2 in Bommasandra

An LPG cylinder leak triggered a powerful explosion in a rented house in Kittaganahalli, Bommasandra, under Surya City police station limits on Monday. The blast left two individuals injured and caused extensive damage to the house and surrounding property.

The victims, identified as Vishwa and Sunil, both employees of a private hospital, were living in the rented house. According to the initial investigation, the explosion occurred when one of the men was taking a bath, and the other switched on a light, igniting the leaked gas.

Both sustained severe burn injuries and are currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The explosion's impact was so high that it completely damaged the house as walls and pillars collapsed. Flying debris caused further destruction, damaging three cars and six motorcycles parked nearby. Emergency services, including the Surya City police and fire department, rushed to the scene and cleared the debris. **BMB**

Tree encroachment halts work on key road; citizens approach authorities

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A section of residents of Manyata Residency, adjacent to Thanisandra Main Road, have approached authorities regarding the stoppage of construction of the four-lane road connecting Embassy Manyata Business Park and Bharathnagar. The project was announced by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in May 2024 and is part of the Revised Master Plan 2015 (RMP 2015).

Residents say the infrastructure project is vital not only for easing

severe traffic gridlock at the Hebbal-Airport Road—Nagavara junction but also for ensuring smooth interconnectivity between multiple large-scale residential and commercial developments in the area.

"Ours is a BDA-approved layout that was handed over to BBMP in February 2024 along with roads and a park, while the civic amenity sites were retained by BDA. As per the BDA approved layout plan, the land required for the 12-metre RMP road is already relinquished to BBMP and is free of any building and structures," said a resident of Manyata Residency.

Residents alleged that over the years, the 12-metre road has been encroached at several places and more than a year ago, the remaining portion was deliberately obstructed by illegal transplantation of tree sources from elsewhere.

"Trees have been planted in a way that creates a false appearance of a park and becomes unmotorable. Other than this narrow strip the rest of the area is filled with debris. The transplantation, which costs nearly Rs 2 lakh per tree, appears to be a effort by unknown parties to obstruct the project and encroach on the public land,"said another resident.

Significant progress was made by BBMP in the development of the four-lane stretch connecting Embassy Manyata Business Park and Bharathnagar before work came to a standstill. "The Manyata residency association, without informing the residents, has approached the High Court stating that BBMP is trying to uproot the trees and encroach park area and civic amenities sites to form the RMP road. But, the trees were transplanted to make it look like a park and ensure that road development work does not take place," said another resident.

Residents say, in the absence of a linking road, the internal roads of the layouts are being used for commercial traffic leading to noise and air pollution in the residential area.

Monitor groundwater extraction in state: CGWA

Any illegal extraction of groundwater attracts penalty in EC form, but K'taka has not implemented it

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Bengaluru has extracted 100% of its groundwater with 30 assessment units categorised as overexploited

The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has directed the Karnataka Ground Water Authority (KGWA) to monitor groundwater drawl in the state and impose Environmental Compensation (EC) on illegal extraction of the resource.

According to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), any illegal extraction of groundwater attracts a penalty in the form of EC. However, Karnataka has not incorporated this provision in the state guidelines.

"Groundwater management and development in Karnataka is being regulated and controlled by the Ground Water Directorate. However, it is noticed that Karnataka has not incorporated provisions of environmental compensation in its guidelines. EC, as per MoJS guidelines should be imposed on illegal withdrawal in the state," said CGWA in a report.

As per the environmental compensation rule by MoJS, the penalty can be imposed on the illegal groundwater withdrawal by housing complexes, industrial units, commercial establishments, and other entities till the time the EC provision is incorporated in SGWA guidelines.

MoJS guidelines also state that wherever states and union territories come out with their groundwater abstraction guidelines, which are inconsistent with GCWA guidelines, the provision of CGWA prevails. However, in case the guidelines followed by states/UTs contain more stringent provisions than CGWA guidelines, they prevail in addition to those contained in CGWA guidelines.

> **"Karnataka has not incorporated environmental compensation in its guidelines. EC, as per MoJS guidelines should be imposed on illegal withdrawal in the state** –CGWA report

The central board has also directed the state to enforce and monitor the groundwater drawl in Karnataka and prepare an action-taken report on the illegal bore wells in the state.

Notably, GGWA had issued directions to Karnataka and other states and union territories across the country where groundwater is being regulated by the State Ground Water Authority. The board had instructed state authority to take action against the illegal bore wells and submit an action taken report including the details of sealed bore wells, environmental compensations, and penalties imposed and recovered under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

CGWA had sought the information after directions issued by the National Green Tribunal. However, KGWA failed to submit the action-taken report

The National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2024 report by the Central Ground Water Board highlighted that in Karnataka, while the total annual groundwater extraction is less than 70% of the available resources, overall extraction has increased from 66.26% in 2023 to 66.44% in 2024.

The report also underlined that Bengaluru has extracted 100% of its groundwater, with 30 assessment units in the rural and urban districts of Bengaluru categorised as overexploited. The assessment was conducted on 10 units in Bengaluru rural district and 20 units in the urban district. It also highlighted that while the current stage of groundwater extraction in Bengaluru rural is more than 147%, it is nearing 200% in the case of Bengaluru urban district, leading to zero net groundwater availability for future use.

Volunteers beautify black spot at Shankarapura

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Volunteers who beautified the black spot on Sunday; The black spo t at Shankarapura

Sunday marked the beginning of this year's Swachha Bengaluru campaign for Youth For Parivarthan, as the volunteers took on the challenge of transforming a massive black spot at Shankarpura. This public space, plagued by constant garbage dumping and public urination, was a menace to local residents and passersby. However, the combined efforts of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Synamedia & about 35 dedicated volunteers from Youth For Parivarthan have given it a much-needed facelift, turning it into a cleaner, more welcoming area.

In just seven hours, the relentless teamwork and active collaboration with BBMP officials and pourakarmikas brought a magical transformation to the black spot.

"I have been associated with Youth For Parivarthan for the last six years. It gives me immense pleasure to participate in cleaning programmes. We are a group of like-minded people, including software engineers and advocates," said Daya Sagar, committee member of Youth For Parivarthan.

Expressing a similar opinion, Raghavendra Hebbar, a software engineer, said that he has been associated with Youth For Parivarthan for the last four years. "I work from Monday to Friday and spend weekends in social work. I am very happy to be part of the cleaning programme at Shankarapura. I will be more happy if the public preserves the black spots that are beautified by the volunteers. There are some spots that were beautified a few years ago. I want the public to avoid creating black spots," said Hebbar.

Amith Amarnath, founder of Youth For Parivarthan said that instead of waiting for someone else to step in, the volunteers took action.

"This is our city and it's our responsibility to make it better. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the BBMP team, the pourakarmikas and Synamedia for their invaluable support. A big shoutout to every volunteer who participated today—your commitment and passion made this transformation possible. Together, we are making Bengaluru cleaner, one spot at a time," expressed Amarnath.

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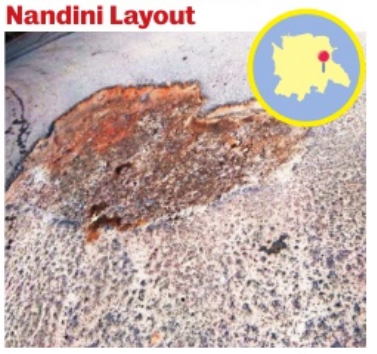
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Pothole menace
Nandini Layout



A pothole has been present for the past two weeks in the 4th Block, Nandini Layout. This area experiences significant vehicular movement from all four sides, causing inconvenience and raising safety concerns.

Poor pavement
Kammanahalli

The pavement on Kammanahalli Main Road, directly opposite Kurlon and the Samsung shop near Liberty, is in poor condition. It is strewn with garbage, and several tiles have been dug up, creating a foul smell and making it difficult for pedestrians to walk safely.

More pothole menace
Kammanahalli

A pothole has developed at the entrance of Vivekananda Street on Kammanahalli Main Road, near the SBI branch. Immediate attention from BBMP is requested to address this issue.

Techie suicide case: HC rejects wife's plea to quash FIR

The Karnataka High Court on Monday rejected the plea for quashing of FIR against Nikita Singhania who was charged with abetting the suicide of her husband Atul Subhash. Justice SR Krishna Kumar observed that the first information report (FIR) appeared to contain all essential elements constituting the offence of abetment of suicide.

When Singhania's legal representative contested the FIR's validity, claiming it failed to establish the commission of the offence, the Court disagreed, noting that the FIR contained comprehensive details of the alleged offence. "My reading of this complaint is that ingredients are made out. And it is not a case of

quashing," the bench stated.

The Court noted, "Details are given (in the complaint and FIR). Look at the complaint. All details are given. Tell me what more should have been given for abetment of suicide? According to me, all contents of abetment are there. Everything is narrated. In matters of this type, what more do you want? Details of offence under Section 306 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 108 Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), what more can be given."

The hearing was adjourned with instructions for the prosecution to present details of the investigation and evidence collected thus far.

The case involves Singhania's petition to dismiss the FIR against her. She was granted an interim bail from a Bengaluru court on Saturday.

While Singhania's counsel contested FIR's validity, Court noted that FIR contained comprehensive details of alleged offence

Karnataka govt moves SC challenging Darshan's bail

Karnataka administration on Monday submitted a Special Leave Petition (SLP) to the Supreme Court contesting the High Court's ruling of granting bail to Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and others involved in the Renukaswamy murder case. The submission follows authorisation from Somanatha, the first Additional Solicitor and Ex-officio Deputy Secretary to the Home Department. The administration has selected senior advocate Anil C Nishani for petition preparation and senior counsel Siddarth Luthra to present arguments before the Apex court.

The second accused, Darshan, received interim bail on October 30 due to health reasons after 131 days in judicial custody. The HC subsequently granted regular bail to Darshan and the first accused, Pavithra Gowda, on December 13. All other defendants have since secured bail.

In September, Bengaluru police submitted a comprehensive 3,991-page chargesheet identifying 17 accused persons in the Renukaswamy murder case. The accused include Pawan K (29), Raghavendra (43), Nandish (28), Jagadish (36), Anukumar (25), Ravi Shankar (32), Dhanraj D (27), Vinay V (38), Nagaraju (41), Laxman (54), Deepak (39), Pradosh (40), Karthik (27), Keshavamurthy (27), and Nikhil Nayak (21). **BMB**

Transfer orders bring chaos to city sub-registrar offices

2 sub-registrars report at same office in Gandhinagar, causing confusion & inconvenience to staff, visiting public; transferred personnel await HC's hearing for clarity on their orders

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A citizen is seeking services at a sub-registrar office in Bengaluru in this file photo

Sub-registrars working in the city are questioning their untimely transfer orders. Some of them are of the opinion that issuing transfers at year-end or the beginning has put them in a puzzled situation.

A sub-registrar, on the condition of anonymity, told BM that the government has the power and authority to transfer them, but the transfer process should begin and conclude at the right time. "If I must join duty at a district headquarters in South Karnataka now, how can I find a school for my children? I am not against the government's transfer orders, but December or January is not the right time to report to duty outside Bengaluru," said the sub-registrar.

It is said that some of the sub-registrars, based on the High Court order, reported to duty at their current offices only to find sub-registrars transferred from outside Bengaluru also reporting to duty. This situation allegedly ended up causing confusion and inconvenience to the staff as well as property owners who want to register sale deeds.

To cite an instance, it is alleged that registration of sale deeds was affected due to two sub-registrars reporting to duty at Gandhinagar Sub-Registrar Office situated adjacent to the Deputy Commissioner's Office. When contacted, Isha, a sub-registrar transferred to the Gandhinagar Sub-Registrar Office, said that she reported to duty as per the government order. "I am expecting some clarity on my transfer shortly," she said.

With the High Court posting the case for hearing on January 7, the sub-registrars are expecting some clarity on their transfers.

Public reaction

The general public is not happy with the developments at Gandhinagar Sub-Registrar Office. "The government has delayed transfer orders for more than four months. It should have waited four more months to transfer the sub-registrars from Bengaluru to other districts and taluks. The current situation is causing inconvenience to the public," said Joseph, a visitor to Gandhinagar Sub-Registrar Office.

What went wrong?

Generally the state government employees are transferred during April and May of every year. Accordingly, the State Cabinet in last July decided to transfer sub-registrars through counselling. The objective was to transfer those sub-registrars who have been working in Bengaluru for many years. The counselling was supposed to be completed by August 10, 2024. However, the transfer orders were only issued on December 10.

It took more than four months after completing the counselling process. In this context, 24 sub-registrars among 90 sub-registrars filed a writ petition (33865/2024) seeking justice. It is said that 24 sub-registrars have approached Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (KAT) seeking a stay on the transfer order, but the KAT rejected their plea.

Later, they approached the High Court on December 11 against the KAT order and the government order. The HC has issued an interim order staying the transfer of sub-registrars.

> **"I'm not against govt's transfer orders, but December or January is not right time to report to duty outside Bengaluru** –A sub-registrar

"The 24 officials, who have been formally relieved from their offices but have not joined new offices, shall be reinstated in the very offices, forthwith. For all other officers who are before the Court, protection is given to the effect that they shall not be disturbed till the next date of hearing of the petitions along with other, if any," the HC dated December 16 read.

IN BRIEF

Couple kills their children, die by suicide

A couple ended their lives after poisoning their two children on Monday at their residence in RMV 2nd Stage. All four were natives of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The deceased have been identified as Anup Kumar (38), a software engineer; his wife, Rakhi (35), a homemaker; and their children, Anupriya (5) and Priyansh (2). According to police, Anup had sent a distress mail to his brother citing that he had lost a huge amount of money (invested in a business venture) after he was cheated. Police are suspecting that this loss and financial problems could have led to this extreme step; however, the exact reason remains ascertained. The parents of the deceased have been alerted and are expected to arrive by Tuesday, post which the post-mortem and FIR would be registered, police sources revealed. **BMB**

Amazon, Flipkart probe cases sent to HC

The Supreme Court on Monday transferred to Karnataka High Court petitions of Amazon and Flipkart, challenging a Competition Commission of India (CCI) order for a probe into the e-commerce giants for alleged malpractices.

A bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said if pleadings in some of the transferred petitions were not completed, the judge seized of the matter would grant reasonable time to complete the pleadings. "It will be appropriate if all the petitions that are the subject matter of this transfer petition are transferred for hearing to the High Court of Karnataka," the bench said. During the hearing, Attorney General R Venkataramani informed the apex court that, after filing of the present petition by fair trade regulator CCI, five pleas had been filed in different HC's. The SC directed that these petitions be transferred to the state HC. "If similar petitions are hereafter instituted in any other HC, the same shall be also covered by this order," the bench said. **PTI**

Women strength Over 150 candidates from Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, and Mahe took part in the Agniveer general duty (Women Military Police) recruitment rally held in Kitturu Rani Chennamma Stadium, Bengaluru– Pic: Kaushik JN

Residents go on silent march for basic amenities

Residents of Halehalli & Hebron Road marched to panchayat demanding better infrastructure

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Frustrated by years of neglect, residents of Halehalli Main Road and Hebron Road marched to the Halehalli Panchayat demanding urgent attention to the poor state of infrastructure in their area. The silent march, organised by several Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), highlighted critical issues such as bad roads, clogged drainage, a lack of streetlights, and other essential amenities.

The march saw active participation from RWAs and letters from RWAs like LVS Heights Owners Welfare Association, Kithaganur Meda Resident Welfare Association, Casagrand Luxus Owners Welfare Association, SAS Honeydew Apartments, Saketh Layout Residents Welfare Association, and others were submitted formal to the Panchayat, detailing the hardships they face daily due to the lack of basic infrastructure.

Residents of LVS Heights described Halehalli Main Road as being in deplorable condition, with chronic waterlogging throughout the year creating safety hazards for all, especially children, women, and the elderly. Frequent incidents of accidents and injuries have been reported, and a newly excavated pit near an apartment complex has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, raising public health concerns. The residents expressed their frustration over being deprived of basic amenities and demanded immediate action from local authorities.

Slow moving traffic between BDA complex Mylasandra and Jnana Bharati Metro station (File photo)

> **We feel neglected and unheard, but we won't stop until our voices are acknowledged and these basic issues are resolved in our area**
>
> –Protester

In Saketh Layout, residents spoke of the difficulties they face commuting daily. The road connecting Bom Diamond College Main Road to the layout is severely damaged, with overflowing drainage and clogged water worsening the situation. The damaged roads have led to multiple accidents, making the area dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike. Children are struggling to reach their schools safely, while elderly residents fear falling on the uneven and slippery roads. Women, especially mothers dropping their children off at school, described the commute as a daily ordeal.

The community also raised broader concerns, including the lack of regular garbage collection, insufficient water supply, no post office or police station, and limited public transportation options. They demanded the expansion of BBMP limits to include Kithaganur and Halehalli and called for the development of public health centres, parks, and the rejuvenation of Kithaganur Lake.

The residents vowed to continue their protests until the authorities take concrete steps to address their concerns. "We feel neglected and unheard, but we won't stop until our voices are acknowledged and these basic issues are resolved," said a protester. The march highlighted the urgent need for improved civic amenities to ensure safety and a better quality of life for the community.

Driverless train in B'luru in 14 days

Even though commuters are waiting for the opening of the Yellow Metro railway line that connects RV Road to Bommasandra, a train set was handed over to BMRCL on Monday. This trainset manufactured by Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd, Kolkata, will reach Hebbagodi by road

These trainsets operate in driverless (GOA4) mode, boosting efficiency

in the next fortnight. Officials said that this stainless steel, automated train set is the first Made-in-India passenger rolling stock set to run on the key 18-kilometre stretch, linking the Electronics City technology and business hub to the rest of the city.

Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, said, "As we inaugurate Bengaluru Metro's new train set and surpass 1,000 kms of operational metro rail, we celebrate a significant milestone in India's urban mobility journey."

BIFF from March 1 to 8

The 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival will be held from March 1 to 8. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the Bengaluru International Film Festival on March 1.

"The State Government has allocated Rs 9 crore for organising the international film festival this year as against Rs 7 crore spent last year. The film festival committee wanted Rs 12 crore but I reduced the amount to Rs 9 crore. The film festival committee wanted the film festival to be held from February 27 but I advised them to organise it from March 1 as I would be busy with pre-budget preparations," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"The theme of the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival is Sarva Janagada Shantiya Thota (a grove of peace for all people)," he said.

Portal for wildlife FIRs

Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), in collaboration with the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), has developed an online portal, Garudakshi, to file FIRs in cases of forest and wildlife-related crimes in the state.

The online portal will be inaugurated today by Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre. The idea of the portal is to strengthen the existing legal framework for the prevention of forest and wildlife crimes. The software will help in managing and effectively monitoring forest crime cases under Forest and Wildlife (Protection) laws. The software, on a pilot basis, will be implemented in Bengaluru Urban Division, Bhadravathi Division, Sirsi Division, and MM Hills.

HMPV in B'luru: No need for alarm, say officials & docs

Virus has been around since 2001, causes respiratory infections that is rarely serious

The two cases of HMPV were detected at Baptist Hospital in Bengaluru, on Monday; Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao chairs a meeting regarding the illness

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has identified two cases of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in Bengaluru. These cases were detected during routine surveillance of respiratory viral pathogens as part of ICMR's efforts to monitor respiratory illnesses across the country. Although concerns have arisen due to an outbreak reported in China, experts and government officials have assured the public that there is no cause for alarm.

The detected HMPV cases in Bengaluru involve two infants, neither of whom has a history of international travel. The first case is a 3-month-old female infant who was admitted to Baptist Hospital with a history of bronchopneumonia. She was diagnosed with HMPV during her stay and has since been discharged. The second case is an 8-month-old male infant who tested positive for HMPV on January 3. He was also admitted to Baptist Hospital with a history of bronchopneumonia and is currently recovering.

'Not a new virus'

Officials clarified that HMPV is not a new virus and has been circulating globally, including in India, with cases of respiratory illnesses linked to HMPV reported in several countries. They also noted that, according to current data from ICMR and the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) network, there has been no significant increase in cases of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) or Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) in the country.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HMPV can cause both upper and lower respiratory infections in individuals of all ages. However, it is particularly concerning for young children, older adults, and those with weakened immune systems. Discovered in 2001, HMPV belongs to the Pneumoviridae family, alongside the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Common symptoms of HMPV include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath.

No need to panic: Gundu Rao

With the two cases detected in Bengaluru, the government has assured the public that there is no cause for alarm. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao stated that the government is closely monitoring the situation, and there is currently no need to panic.

> **"HMPV is not a new virus. One of the patients has been discharged, and the other is stable and will be discharged soon** –Dinesh Gundu Rao

"A routine test was conducted to identify the cause of the problem in the infants, during which HMPV was detected. HMPV has been in existence for over a decade and is not a new virus. One of the patients has already been discharged, and the other is stable and will be discharged soon. The tests were not specifically conducted to check for HMPV but to examine about 15 different parameters, and HMPV was identified. In cases of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), around one percent of cases each year are attributed to HMPV," he said.

No surge in ILI

The Centre has also confirmed that there has been no surge in ILI cases so far, and any trends indicating such surges are being monitored closely. "If the situation escalates to levels similar to the covid-19 pandemic, we have the necessary infrastructure and medical facilities in place. However, the situation is not comparable to that at present, and there is no need to panic. People are advised to take all necessary precautionary measures," Union Health Ministry officials said.

—Iffath Fathima

Symptoms and care

Dr. Sujatha Thyagarajan, Paediatric Intensive Care and Paediatric Emergency at Aster Hospital, pointed out that a proportion of children may experience severe forms of the disease that require hospitalisation and other advanced forms of care like oxygen or High flow Oxygen in PICU.

Between the year 2022-2024, the hospital has observed 17 positive cases of HMPV. "All HMPV patients who were hospitalised were found to have co-infections. These co-infections included a combination of viral and bacterial pathogens. Treatment was supportive care, which comprised hydration, fever management, and oxygen therapy where required. Targeted therapies included antibiotics for the bacterial pathogens co-infecting children," she said.

Dr. Sunil Kumar K of Aster CMI Hospital pointed out HMPV primarily causes respiratory symptoms similar to influenza and covid-19, including fever, cough, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath. "Given the absence of a vaccine, these measures are crucial in controlling the spread of the virus. While HMPV shares transmission characteristics with covid, such as spread through respiratory droplets, it is generally less severe."

Precautionary measures*

- The public are advised to take the following precautionary measures
- Cover your mouth and nose with handkerchief or tissue paper, when you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitiser
- Adequate ventilation with outdoor air is recommended in all settings to reduce the transmission
- Consult a doctor if you have signs and symptoms of flu/ILI
- Drink plenty of water and eat nutritious food.

*(*Source GoK, Dept of health and family welfare)*

ISRO postpones Spadex mission docking to Jan 9

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the postponement of the docking of its Spadex mission program, initially scheduled for January 7, 2025. The new date for the docking has been set for January 9, 2025. ISRO has not provided any specific reason for the change in schedule.

In a message, ISRO stated, "With reference to the above subject, we would like to inform you that the Docking of Spadex mission experimental programme has been postponed to Thursday, 09th January 2025. The timings of the programme will be informed later."

ISRO further expressed regret over any inconvenience caused due to the delay, but did not elaborate on the cause of the schedule adjustment.

ISRO launches Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV-C60) with two Space Docking Experiment (SpaDEX) satellites in this Dec 30 file photo

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh last week said that the SpaDeX mission was named as "Bharatiya Docking Technology" because it is purely an indigenous mission and India is carrying out first such experiment related to docking technology.

The Union MoS further stated that SpaDeX's mission very much aligns with Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

Addressing a press conference, Singh said, "The launch of the SpaDeX mission is one of the first experiments undertaken by India as far as the docking technology is concerned. It is a purely indigenous technology and that's why it's been appropriately named Bharatiya Docking Technology. That is very much in keeping with PM Modi's mantra for Aatmanirbhar Bharat..."

On December 30, ISRO achieved a historic feat by launching PSLV-C60 with SpaDeX and innovative payloads. SpaDeX mission is a cost-effective technology demonstrator mission for the demonstration of in-space docking using two small spacecraft launched by PSLV. The primary objective of the SpaDeX mission is to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for rendezvous, docking, and undocking of two small spacecraft in a Low-Earth circular orbit.

—ANI

'Tech not just for fines, but to educate motorists'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

speeds up to 500 metres away, capturing essential details like licence plate numbers and the precise speed of approaching vehicles. Traffic authorities have been using this tool strategically in no-signal corridors such as ring roads and flyovers, where speeding is common.

Traffic officials employed a coordinated strategy for this drive: The Laser Trac camera was positioned mid-flyover, while officers waited at the endpoint to intercept violators. Fines were issued on the spot, and for those who evaded immediate apprehension, e-challans were generated and sent online.

"This technology is not just about imposing fines; it's about educating motorists and creating a culture of safety," said a senior traffic officer. "On signal-free roads like this, where there's no need to stop frequently, there's no justification for speeding. Yet, we see many accidents due to reckless driving."

Backed up with study

The initiative also brings to light a vital point backed by global studies, that said that 'reducing average speeds by just 5 km/h can decrease accident rates by up to 30%'. For instance, driving at 55 km/h instead of 60 km/h significantly lowers the likelihood of fatal accidents.

In densely populated urban areas,

such enforcement measures are critical. While flyovers and ring roads may seem ideal for fast travel, they often turn into accident hotspots when motorists take advantage of the clear roads.

"Currently, these cameras are exclusively being used on NICE Roads where speed limit notifications are already in place. Additionally, three cameras are operational at various junctions across the West, East, and South divisions.

In the North division, particularly on Bellary Road and other key routes, we see a significant number of speeding violations. Areas like the outskirts, ring roads, and signal-free corridors experience frequent over-speeding as they provide open and fast-moving stretches," said DCP Traffic West, Anitha B.

The expanded use of these cameras covers ring roads and other high-speed corridors. Presently, their deployment is focused on NICE Roads and ring roads, where speeding is most prevalent. In signalised junctions, congestion naturally limits vehicle speeds, making enforcement less critical in those areas.

IIM-B student dies after falling off second floor of hostel, sparks debate on caste discrimination

The death of a student of the Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru (IIM-B), Nilay Kailashbhai Patel, who had presumably fallen off the second floor of his hostel, has sparked an online debate on caste-based discrimination.

Several posts on 'X' weigh in on the possibility of the student dying of suicide due to discrimination. Incidentally, the police told PTI on Monday that initial investigation points to an accidental fall. They said suicide is unlikely as they could not find any suicide note.

But All India OBC Students Association (AIOBCSA) has asked for clarification from IIM-B. "We demand @iimb_official to provide clarity on this critical issue. The institution lacks adequate mechanisms to address the concerns of marginalised communities, a matter we have repeatedly highlighted," said the organisation through its X page, @aiobcsa.

It has also tagged the Ministry of Education and Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan. "We call upon @EduMinOfIndia to take immediate action to prevent student suicides and to strengthen institutional support systems for students from marginalised backgrounds," read the post.

Despite repeated attempts, PTI could not get through to the Director of IIM-B, Rishikesha T Krishnan for his comments. Meanwhile, the police told PTI: "We are awaiting the post-mortem report, which will likely come in three days, to ascertain the cause of death."

Nilay, who was from Surat, had celebrated his 29th birthday with his friends on Saturday. He had allegedly returned to his room after cutting cake in his friend's room a little after midnight and was found lying in the courtyard lawn of the hostel at about 6.30 am on Sunday, the police said.

According to police, he was spotted by the security personnel and was immediately rushed to the hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Soon after, IIM-B had put out a condolence message on its X page. "It is with profound sadness that IIM Bangalore shares the news of the untimely passing of our PGP 2023-25 student," read the message.

A case of unnatural death was registered by the police and investigation is on. **PTI**

CM hints at some people involved in 'Naxal' activities surrendering in days ahead

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday hinted at the possibility of some people involved in "Naxal" activities surrendering before the state authorities in the days ahead. This amid reports that a few suspected Maoists are said to have expressed a wish to return to the mainstream.

According to sources, few among those involved in Naxal activities have made a move in this direction following efforts by the state committee to oversee the implementation of the rehabilitation policy to assimilate/surrender Left-wing extremists.

"I have called on the Naxals to surrender. I have issued a statement. I feel that they will mostly have a transformation of mind," Siddaramaiah told reporters here in response to a question.

Asked if the Naxals have agreed to surrender, he said, "they haven't spoken to me, but there is a possibility of surrender."

The CM had recently appealed to the Naxalites (Maoists) involved in violent activities to surrender and join the democratic mainstream.

He had then said that the government had already formulated a surrender policy for Naxals, adding that this policy will be simplified and effectively implemented.

On November 18, 2024, Maoist leader Vikram Gowda was killed in an encounter with the Anti-Naxal Force at Peetabailu village in Hebri in Udupi district. **PTI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

We, Srinath Madapathi and Kavitha Madapathi,Residing at No.18-8-297/173,Tanaji Nagar,Uppuguda,Near Shishu Mandir School,Hyderabad, now camped at Bengaluru,Karnataka, have changed our minor daughter name from NAOMIKA MADAPATHI to LAKSHMI MADAPATHI, vide affidavit dated 06/01/2025 before notary A R Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, Praveen Vijayan Kuriyakkot s/o Vijayan K R, R/o Flt No. 001 Sarma Garden Apt No.1 Cookson Road, Richards Town Bengaluru 560005 have changed my name to Praveen Vijayan for all purposes.

I Sparsha Gondlur Murali Kumar W/o Kishore Kumar Nanja Reddy, Residing At,no 43, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, 4th Main, Opp Vvs College, basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru 560079 have changed my name to Sparsha Murali Kumar for all purposes.

I, Rajalben Jatinkumar KaPatel, W/o. Jatin Manubhai Patel and D/o. Harshadlal Narottamdas KaPatel residing at #62, Rithik Sai Nivas, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Anugraha Layout, Bilekahalli, Bangalore. Karnataka - 560076, have changed my name to Rajal Jatin Patel vide affidavit dated 02-Jan-2025 at Bengaluru.

I, Jatinkumar Manubhai Patel, S/O Manubhai Mohanbhai KaPatel residing at #62, Rithik Sai Nivas, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Anugraha Layout, Bilekahalli, Bangalore. Karnataka - 560076, have changed my name to Jatin Manubhai Patel vide affidavit dated 02-Jan-2025 at Bengaluru.

I, Sudha Chowdappa W/o B K Prasad R/o Old.4, New No.1, Belur Nagasandra, Yemlur, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my name to Sudha Hulimavu Chowdappa Affidavit Dt.06/01/2024 notary, Harisha G, B'luru

I, Jaweed Anwar Yasmin Taj W/o Syed Mahaboob Pasha R/o #25/1 Doddabasthi, Near Bus Stop, Sir M V Layout 4th Block, Ullalu Upanangar Post B'luru 560056 have changed my name to Yasmin Taj.

I, Parameshwari Ganapati Bhat R/o Kanalli, Hegadekatta, Sirsi Tq, Uttarakanna 581403 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Parameshwari Kiran Hegde Affidavit Dt.06/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I NEENA CHARLES W/o Vijay.M R/a 18/4 2nd Floor, 16th Cross, Mariamma Temple Steet, Jai Bharath Nagar, M.S.Nagar Post,Banglore-560033.I Have Changed My Name From NEENA VIJAY To NEENA CHARLES. Vide Affidavit Date:12.05.2022.Sworn Before Notary : Udaykumar.K.

I, SRIDEVI.R D/o Mr.Rajabhadur R/a #216, 1st D Cross, HRBR Layout 3rd Phase, Kammanahalli, St.Thomas Town, Banglore-560084.I Declare My Name From R SRIDEVI To SRIDEVI R. Vide Affidavit Date: 08.10.2024. Sworn Before Notary: Y.R Chandrasekar.

I, M.SELVAKUMARI D/o Mr.Rajabhadur R/a #234/3 1st Floor, 15th Cross, Oilmill Road, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084. I Declare My Name From M SELVAKUMARI To R.SELVAKUMARI. Vide Affidavit Date: 19.10.2024. Sworn Before Notary:Y.R Chandrasekar.

I, Asha Bidarakoppa Matada Basaveshwaraiah W/o Basaveshwaraiah Bidarakoppa Mathada R/o 507 ,4th Cross ,8th main Rd Vijayanagar b'lore-560040 have changed my name to Bidarakoppa Mathada Basaveshwaraiah for all purposes.

I, Prahlad S/o, Bheemarao Kulkarni R/o # 114, Kolihal ,Yelburga, Koppal 583237. have changed my name to Prahlad Kulkarni for all purposes.

I, Shilpa Vikram w/o Vikram Veerabhadrappa Chikkapattana, R/o Sri Kalleshwara Krupa, Railway Station Road, Birur, Chikkamagaluru-577116 have changed my name to S B Shilpa for all Purposes

I, Bhaskara Naidu Cherukuru S/o, Doraiswamy Naidu R/o, No 1078,14th B Main Road, Next to Kamala Nursing Home, Hanumantha Nagar, Bengaluru 560019. have changed my name to Bhaskar Naidu Cherukuru for all purposes.

I, Priyankaben Dineshchandra Desai w/o Chintan Deepak Desai R/O No B1004, Club meadows, House of Hiranandani Akshaya nagar, DLF, Hulimavu, Bangalore South- 560068, Karnataka have changed my name to Priyanka Chintan Desai for all purposes

I Neha W/o Subhabrata Kundu, residing at A1404, Sumo Sonnet Apartment, Kudlu, Muneshwara Nagar, Bangalore, have changed my name to Neha Singh Kundu as per affidavit no. IN-KA15124091728945X dated 6 Jan 2024.

I, Parveen Banu Habibur Rahman W/o Habib Ur Rahman R/o #370, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Virat Nagar Bommanahalli B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Parveen Banu for all purposes.

I, Shamprasad Omkarappa S/o Omkarappa R/o #18,2nd Floor Type-3, Block-3 Nimhans Qtrs Bysandra B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Shamprasad for all purposes.

I, Hanumantha Rao Mannagi Rao Dalvi s/o Mannagirao Mannagi Rao R/o #12 KSRTC layout Chikkalasandra B'luru-560061 have changed my name to M H R Dalvi for all purposes.

I, Rajiv Kumar R/o Gopalan Grandeur A 603 Hoodi Circle . 560048. Whitefield. 560048 .bangalore have changed my minor son's name from Rajveer Kumar to Rajveer Kumar Rai.

I, Mahaboob Jan Wahab S/o Wahab Sab R/o #49 2nd Cross Arekere Lakshmi layout B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Mahaboob Jan

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Polyhouse subsidies boost growth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to the growing demand. The flowers remain fresh for nine to 10 days after harvesting, making them ideal for weddings, housewarming ceremonies, meetings at star hotels, and other events. Consequently, demand for these flowers has significantly increased.

Wedding show

Experts said that flowers such as roses, gerberas, chrysanthemums, and orchids have been used in weddings from the Ambani family's wedding to those of various other prominent families. This has boosted the sales of flowers grown in Karnataka's polyhouses. The demand for cut flowers, including roses, is high both domestically and internationally, providing employment opportunities to thousands. The ease of preservation and transportation of roses has led to increased exports.

Exports are at their peak three times a year, especially around Christmas (December 25), New Year's (January 1), and Valentine's Day (February 14), when the demand for white, multi-coloured, and red roses is particularly high. Additionally, flowers are in high demand for wedding decorations, large hotel meetings, and parties.

Flowers from the state are being exported to countries like Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the Gulf, Singapore, Malaysia, the US, and others. The price of roses has also risen. Last year, the price of a single rose stem was Rs. 5-6, but it has now increased to Rs. 7-8 per stem, according to flower growers.

"The government gives a 50% subsidy for growing new varieties of flowers in polyhouses. Each farmer can receive up to Rs. 4 lakh in subsidy. Farmers can contact the horticulture department for details on seeds and subsidy applications. There are currently over 1,500 hectares of polyhouses in the state. Daily sales of roses alone amount to around 30 lakh, with good prices in the market. In total, daily transactions in the flower industry amount to Rs. 80-100 crore. The flower business is expected to further grow in January and February," said Srikanth Ballepalli, president, Flower Growers Association of India.

HEALTH TIP: In its early stages, cervical cancer may not cause noticeable symptoms, which is why regular screenings are crucial

Vaccines such as Cervarix and Gardasil guard against the most severe strains of HPV

BangaloreMirror | 9
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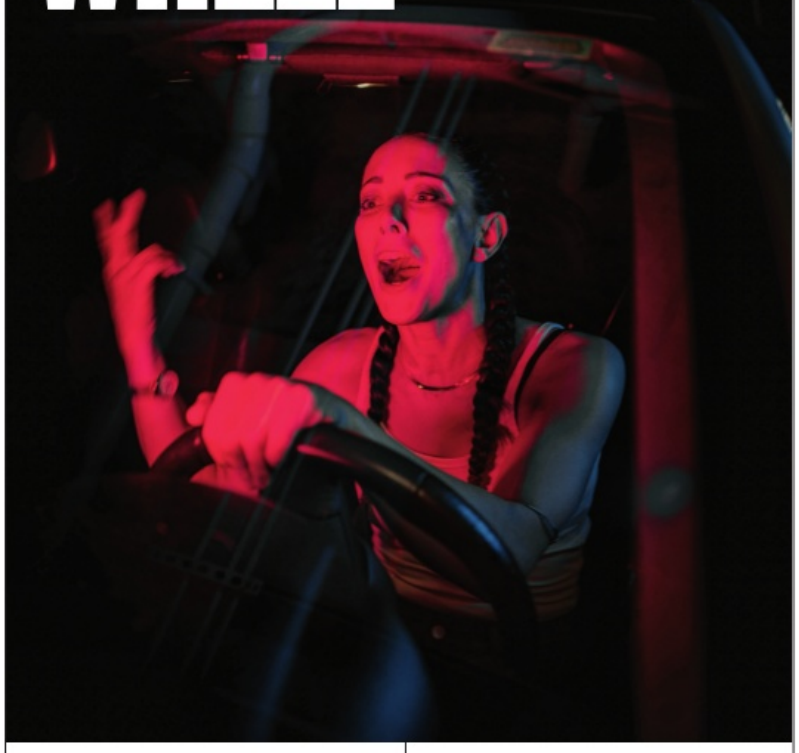
ANGRY BEHIND THE WHEEL

Here's how to curb your road rage – before it's too late



If someone bumps into us on the footpath or in the mall, we're generally quite forgiving. We instinctively apologise or step aside, and usually don't scream at, stalk, or attack the other person.

But put us in a car, and something changes. People who appear calm in everyday life suddenly tailgate, honk, or shout at strangers. Problems at work or home can suddenly explode in the form of righteous anger toward other road users. Road rage increases crash risk, and victims of road rage incidents often have children in the car with them.

So, why does driving bring out the worst in us? And more importantly, what can we do about it?

Road rage remains common

Recent surveys indicate road rage remains common in Australia.

In September 2024, insurer NRMA reported a survey of 1,464 of its members in two states found many had witnessed road rage incidents such as:

- tailgating (71%)
- drivers beeping other drivers (67%)
- drivers gesturing angrily at other drivers (60%)
- drivers deliberately cutting in front of other vehicles (58%)
- drivers getting out of their car to confront to confront another driver (14%)
- stalking (10%)
- physical assault (4%).

Another insurer, Budget Direct, reported last year on a survey of 825 people that found about 83% had experienced shouting, cursing, or rude gestures from other people on the road (up by 18% since 2021).

And of the female respondents, 87% reported they'd copped this kind of behaviour from other road users.

Common triggers for driver anger include tailgating, perceived rudeness (such as not giving a "thank you" wave), and witnessing another person driving dangerously.

Aggressive driving behaviours tend to be more common in younger, male drivers.

Road rage is a global problem, with studies finding road rage remains common in places such as Japan, the US, New Zealand and the UK, but the degree varies significantly from country to country.

Who is more likely to fly into a rage on the road?

Some of us are more likely than others to fly into a rage while driving. One way researchers measure this is via a testing tool known as the Driving Anger Scale.

Data from many studies using this test show drivers who are more prone to anger in general are more likely to turn that anger into aggression. They get annoyed by more things, are quicker to act on their feelings, take more risks, and as a result, are more likely to be involved in anger-related crashes.

Research suggests that while female drivers experience anger just as much as male drivers, they are less likely to act on it in a negative way.

Female drivers tend to feel more intense anger in certain situations, such as when faced with hostile gestures or traffic obstructions, compared to their male counterparts.

What can I do to reduce my road rage?

In a car, we're physically separated from others, which creates a sense of distance and anonymity – two factors that lower our usual social filters. Encounters feel fleeting.

There's a good chance you won't be held accountable for what you or say or do, compared to if you were outside the car. And yet, we perceive the stakes as high because mistakes or bad decisions on the road can have serious consequences.

This mix of isolation, stress, and the illusion of being in a bubble is a perfect recipe for heightened frustration and anger.

Research suggests techniques drawn from cognitive behavioural therapy may help.

These include learning to identify when you are starting to feel angry, trying to find alternative explanations for other people's behaviour, using mindfulness and relaxation and trying to move away from the trigger.

The American Automobile Association also suggests you can reduce road rage incidents by being a more considerate driver yourself – always use your indicator, avoid cutting others off and maintain a safe distance from other cars.

Try to stay calm when other drivers are angry, and allow extra time in your journey to reduce stress.

If driving anger is a frequent issue, consider seeking support or anger management resources.

Avoiding — or at least being aware of — anger rumination can make a big difference. This happens when someone replays anger-inducing events, like being cut off in traffic, over and over in their mind. Instead of letting it go, they dwell on it, fuelling their frustration and making it harder to stay calm.

Recognising this pattern and shifting focus — like taking a deep breath or distracting yourself — can help stop anger from escalating into aggression.

More broadly, public awareness campaigns highlighting the link between anger and risky driving could also encourage more drivers to seek help.

The next time you get behind the wheel, try to remember the other driver, the cyclist, or pedestrian is just another person — someone you might pass on the street without a second thought.

We're often good at forgiving minor missteps in non-driving contexts. Let's try to bring that same patience and understanding to the road.

(By Milad Haghani, UNSW Sydney, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Say goodbye to forehead acne: Tips for pimple-free zone

Forehead acne can be relentless, but fear not! With the right strategies, you can create a pimple-free zone and bid a goodbye to those unwelcome blemishes.

Cleanse with Care: Start with a gentle cleanser to remove dirt, oil, and makeup without stripping your skin's natural moisture. Look for products containing salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide, which can help unclog pores and fight acne-causing bacteria.

Mind Those Bangs: If you have bangs or long hair, they could be the culprit of your forehead getting all clogged with acne. Keep your hair off your forehead as much as possible, and wash your hair regularly to prevent oil buildup.

Hydrating Is The Key: Well, this is not new, is it? Drinking enough water is like a one-stop solution to most of your problems. Drink plenty of water to keep your skin hydrated from within. Additionally, use a lightweight moisturiser to prevent your skin from overcompensating with excess oil production.

Choose 'The Ones': When choosing skin care products, it is extremely important to opt for the right ones. Opt for oil-free and non-comedogenic skincare products to avoid further clogging your pores. Avoid harsh ingredients that can irritate your skin and exacerbate acne.

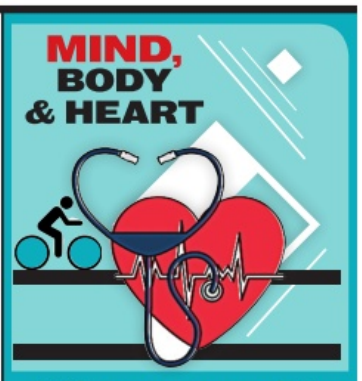
Practice Stress Management: Stress can trigger hormonal fluctuations that lead to breakouts. Incorporate stress-reducing activities like yoga, meditation, or spending time outdoors into your routine to keep your skin calm and clear. Talk to someone who you can open up to and free your mind to let in the peace. And, just see the change, then!

Diet, Baby, Diet!: While the link between diet and acne is still debated, some people find that certain foods, like dairy or high-glycemic foods, can trigger acne. Pay attention to how your skin reacts to different foods, and adjust your diet accordingly.

Hey, No Pricking!: Well, however tempting it is to pick those annoying little beasts, don't! Resist the urge to pick, pop, or squeeze your pimples, as this can lead to inflammation, scarring, and the spread of bacteria. Instead, treat your acne with gentle skincare products and spot treatments.

Consult A Dermat: If your forehead acne persists despite your best efforts, consider seeking professional help from a dermatologist. They can assess your skin and recommend personalised treatment options, such as prescription medications or in-office procedures.

—Femina



All you need to know about...

How to manage diabetes

Whether you have diabetes or are trying to actively evade it, a diabetes-friendly lifestyle goes beyond food choices. It involves monitoring blood sugar levels and practicing self care. Diabetes, like many lifestyle diseases, can be managed by mindful practices. Before it reaches a serious stage, here are some self-care practices you can incorporate into your everyday life.

Follow A Healthy Diet
Having smaller meals that are rich in fibre and include componenets like leafy greens, lentils and whole grains help with stabilising blood sugar levels. Practising mindful portion control and avoiding sugary drinks as well as high-calorie foods also helps.

Quit Smoking
Smoking causes blood vessels to narrow which decreases blood circulation. It's best to avoid smoking and consuming similar harmful substances to support overall health.

Physical Activity
Engage in a physical activities. Including brisk walks, yoga or light cardio into your routine can be beneficial – regardless of diabetes. Daily exercising helps regulate blood sugar and boosts energy levels.

Foot Care
Pay special attention to foot health by wearing comfortable footwear, keeping feet clean and moisturising regularly.

Stress Management
The fatigue associated with diabetes can increase stress, which may cause blood sugar levels to spike. Mindfulness, meditation, or therapy can help you manage emotions and stress.

Regular Monitoring
Monitoring blood sugar is critical for diabetes management, allowing your doctor to make necessary adjustments in your treatment. Don't skip your routine medical checkups, including eye exams.

Sleep & Rest
Aim for seven to nine hours of quality sleep to help regulate insulin and stress levels.

—Femina

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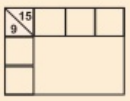
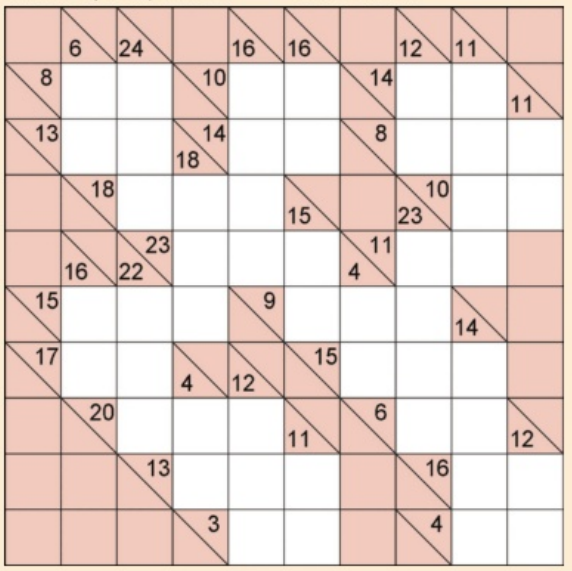
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

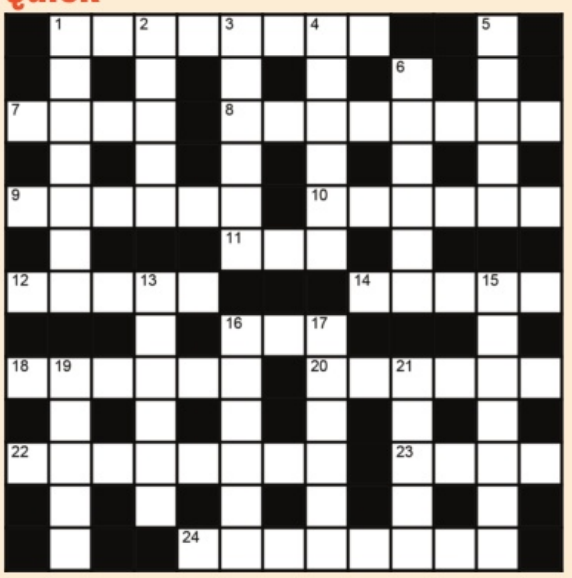
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Got control or dominated (8)
7 Dork (4)
8 Drew up shoulders (8)
9 Entice or lead astray (6)
10 Ordeals (6)
11 Mineral spring (3)
12 Sailing boat (5)
14 Force open (5)
16 Heads of government in many countries (3)
18 A long slender sword (6)
20 Win a foot-race (6)
22 An optical aid (8)
23 Gain by work (4)
24 Trembles violently as with fear (8)

DOWN

1 Toy dog breed (7)
2 Hindu ascetic (5)
3 Follows (6)
4 Errors in printing (6)
5 Rob or purloin (5)
6 More ungainly to look at (6)
13 Cower, shrink or wince (6)
15 Wriggles with embarrassment (7)
16 Deliver a sermon (6)
17 Drenched or marinated; soaked (6)
19 A steamed dosa (5)
21 Motif (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS H

CB KYNWBC HDW YFYN PBCB-VNYZ QBN HPDO PY NYLYGFYZ. PBCBVN PDW XYYC OPY NYH-DNZ QBN HPDO PY JDFY.

Linemaro

I hope there's a fireman around, because you are smoking

Mindchow

After the game, the king and pawn go into the same box

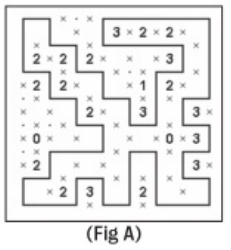
Joke of the day

Why are there fences around graveyards? Because people are dying to get in

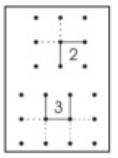
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

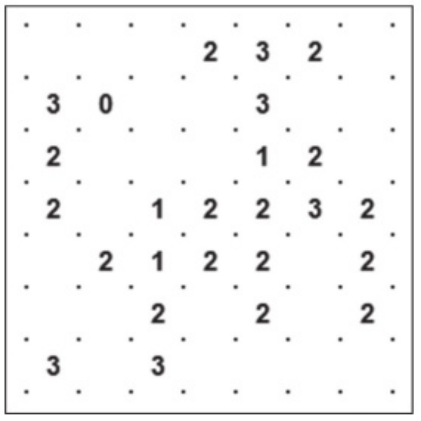


(Fig B) Not Allowed

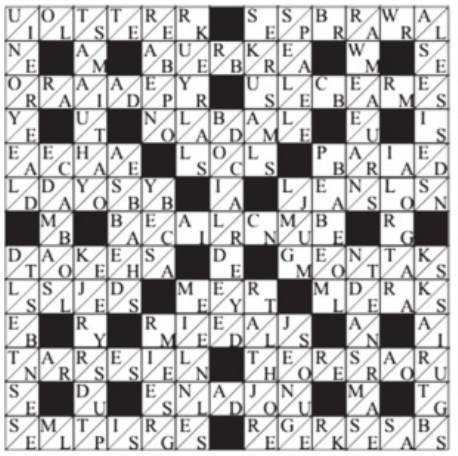
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



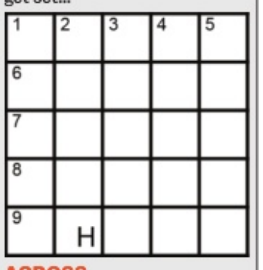
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 At CRT; 6 Arsey;
7 A leap; 8 I rice;
9 Sip CH

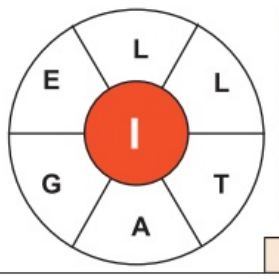
DOWN

1 P city; 2 He car;
3 Ail I a; 4 Crepe;
5 Trass

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8				3	4			
			5				9	8
	1			9		4		
		4		6	5	1		
	2						7	
		7	1	4		8		
		6		1			3	
3	4				7			
			9	2				6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

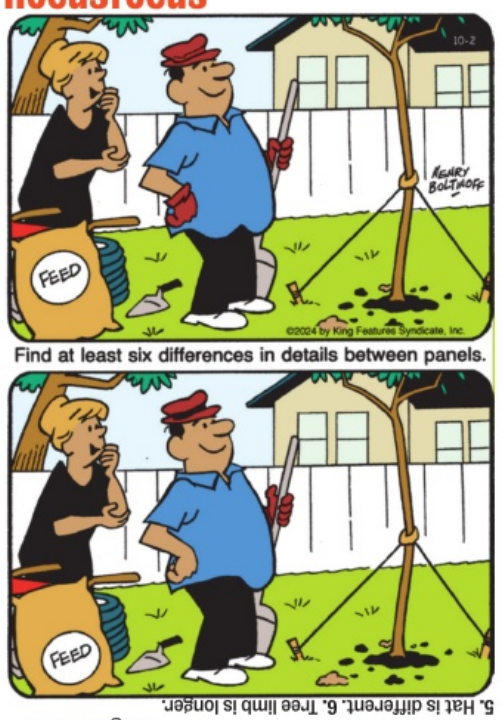
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
4 7 8 8

Medium = 15
5 5 7 8

Hard = 25
4 7 9 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

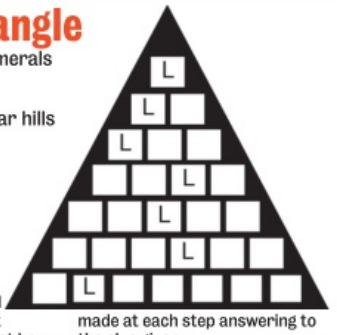
Differences: 1. Glove is missing. 2. Thumb is moved. 3. Bottom of shirt is different. 4. Label on bag is moved. 5. Hat is different. 6. Tree limb is longer.

Riddler

I can sizzle like bacon and am made in a egg. I have plenty of backbone but do lack my legs. I peel layers like an onion but still remain whole. I can be long like a flag pole yet fit in a hole. I come at you in all sorts of colours. Sometimes I like being around waters. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Fifty in Roman numerals
2 'Behold!'
3 Off-shore diary
4 What's in them thar hills
5 Gawked at
6 Sharp bend
7 Whipped

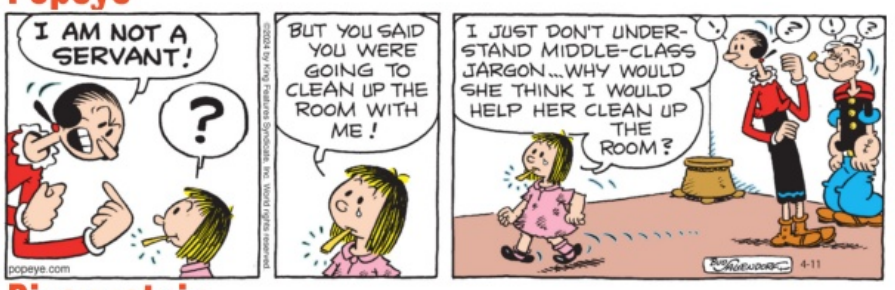


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I AM NOT A SERVANT!
?
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO CLEAN UP THE ROOM WITH ME!
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND MIDDLE-CLASS JARGON...WHY WOULD SHE THINK I WOULD HELP HER CLEAN UP THE ROOM?
4-11
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

I HAD DINNER AT THAT NEW PLACE YESTERDAY
IT'S CALLED THE TATTOO CAFE
WHAT DID YOU HAVE?
A RUMP ROAST WITH A TRAMP STAMP
©2024 creators.com 10/12
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

WE'LL BE LEARNING A FEW SONGS FOR THE FALL CONCERT. FOUR GROUP SONGS, A DUET AND A SOLO.
MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP TO AUDITION FOR THE DUET AND THE SOLO.
COME WHAT MAY! IIIIII WILL LOVE YOUUUUU UNTIL MY DYIIIING DAY!
AUDITION
NAME: Heart Lamar

Crankshaft

Mutts

FRANK, WE SHOULD PLAN FOR MOOCH'S FUTURE IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO US.
SURE... WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
TEACH ME HOW TO USE THE CAN OPENER.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You might plan to renovate your office or home, but be cautious with your spending to avoid affecting your savings. Your straightforward nature may impact your relationship with loved ones, so it's advised to think before speaking. You may also experience issues related to your teeth, throat, ears, or nose.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel happiness and peace of mind. Your work efficiency will improve, and your subordinates may cooperate with you to make important business decisions. You may plan to start a new venture with the help of siblings and your network, which will contribute to the growth of your business. Rest properly to maintain your enthusiasm.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel detached from your responsibilities. You might also spend money on unnecessary items, which could increase negativity at home or in the office. Be cautious of your rivals, as they may try to harm you. Make sure to read documents carefully before signing them.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may enjoy a harmonious balance between family and professional life. Your politeness and cooperation with others will help you complete your work smoothly. New sources of income may emerge, boosting your savings. You may also plan to renovate your home or office. Those in jobs may receive promotions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you'll be busy at work, but your wisdom will help you make the right decisions for business growth. A big order may come your way, expanding your work. You may use your creativity to renovate your home or office, enhancing your social status. Investing in creative assets is also advised.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you're blessed by the moon, which will help you face challenges with patience and enjoy your work. A short work-related trip may come up, where your siblings and subordinates will help expand your social network. Job seekers are advised to use their network to find a suitable job.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may experience some health-related issues. Lack of sleep could make you more irritable, so avoid arguments at work or home. You may feel drawn to occult studies. You could find yourself in a self-analysis phase, but your good karma will help you overcome any messy situations.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may plan to renovate your house. Buying creative artefacts or assets could improve your social status. You may also consider investing in property. Romantic moments with your spouse will enhance your emotional bond. Singles may find a soulmate, and lovebirds may make important decisions regarding marriage.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel happy. Chronic health issues in the family might remain unresolved, but money that was previously stuck could now be recovered, improving your business liquidity. Job holders may receive incentives, boosting your financial health. Job seekers may find work through a relative or friend's reference. Students may receive academic support from their friends.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may use your creativity to renovate your home or office. Your focus on your goals will be sharp. However, overworking could tire your mind and lead to anxiety, restlessness, and stress, which might affect your domestic life. Students are advised to avoid distractions and create a proper study schedule, following it with discipline.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, impatience may affect your work, leading to some mistakes and incomplete projects. It's advised to postpone investments in fixed assets for a few days. However, destiny may help you overcome any messy situations. In the evening, your focus will shift back to your work.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may hear good news from your sibling. Spending time with family and friends will bring you joy. With your creativity, you might plan to renovate your home or office. New partnerships with family members may be formed, which will prove beneficial shortly. Your subordinates at work will assist you with projects.

KIDZONE

Ashwin T, 12 years, St. John's High School

Kaveri Sriram, 10 years, Valistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(4×9×144) ×1/8
= 2×3×12 × 1/8
= 72/8
= 9

RIDDLER
Snake

BULL'S EYE
agile, gait, gill, gilt, legit, lilt, tail, tile, till, TILLAGE

FAST FIVE

C	H	I	P	S
I	C	I	E	R
P	A	L	E	A
Y	E	A	R	S
T	R	A	C	T

STRIKE OUT

E	M	P	I	R	E	■	E	G	R	E	S	S	■	■
S	■	U	■	E	N	D	O	N	■	M	■	T	■	■
T	A	S	S	E	L	■	H	O	R	O	R	■	■	■
E	■	Y	■	M	I	D	A	S	■	A	■	I	■	■
S	L	E	D	■	M	E	T	■	L	E	A	K	■	■
T	A	K	E	A	■	D	■	G	E	N	T	S	■	■
■	B	■	B	E	A	R	C	U	B	■	R	■	■	■
L	A	V	B	Y	■	A	■	J	A	S	O	N	■	■
A	C	H	E	■	L	O	S	■	B	R	A	E	■	■
E	■	T	■	N	A	B	A	L	■	E	■	S	■	■
R	A	I	D	E	R	■	U	L	C	E	R	S	■	■
N	■	M	B	U	B	K	A	■	M	■	■	E	■	■
U	L	S	T	E	R	■	S	P	R	A	W	L	■	■

QUICK

M	A	S	T	E	R	E	D	■	S	■	■	■	■	■
A	■	A	■	■	■	N	■	R	■	U	■	■	■	■
S	P	Y	G	L	A	S	S	■	E	A	R	N	■	■
■	P	■	N	■	E	■	U	■	H	■	I	■	■	■
R	A	P	I	E	R	■	O	U	T	R	U	N	■	■
■	R	■	P	M	S	■	■	■	Q	■	■	■	■	■
K	E	T	C	H	■	P	R	I	S	E	■	■	■	■
■	S	■	■	S	P	A	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	E	D	U	C	E	■	T	R	I	A	L	S	■	■
■	T	■	H	■	U	■	A	■	L	■	A	■	■	■
C	L	O	D	■	S	H	R	U	G	G	E	D	■	■
■	A	■	■	R	■	N	■	T	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	A	S	T	E	R	E	D	■	S	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
H. Start on the top left of the diagram, and move clockwise in a spiral towards the centre. Letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 5.

QUOTE UNCODE
No person was ever honoured for what he received. Honour has been the reward for what he gave.

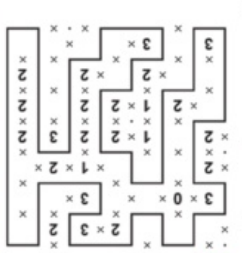
SUDOKU

8	9	5	2	3	4	6	1	7
4	6	2	5	7	1	3	9	8
7	1	3	8	9	6	4	5	2
9	8	4	7	6	5	1	2	3
6	2	1	3	8	9	5	7	4
5	3	7	1	4	2	8	6	9
2	7	6	4	1	8	9	3	5
3	4	9	6	5	7	2	8	1
1	5	8	9	2	3	7	4	6

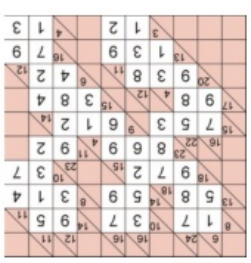
ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, O, G, Gold, Gold, Dogleg, Dogleg, Flogged.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 8 - 8 - 4 = 3
Medium
7 + 8 + 5 - 5 = 15
Hard
9 - 6 x 7 + 4 = 25

LOOP



KAKURO



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INSIDER'S VIEW

Golden Globes — what you didn't see on TV

The Golden Globes are a social affair with occasional breaks for awards. It's a game of seconds inside the packed ballroom as A-listers attempt to get in as many hugs and hellos as possible before the cameras start broadcasting to the world again.

It's a tricky room to navigate, packed to the brim with banquet tables. Some choose to stay put, like Steve Martin, a fortress in a well-guarded, hard to get to seat against a wall. Others, like Andrew Scott and "Challengers" filmmaker Luca Guadagnino couldn't seem stay in their seats — there's just too many fun people to chat with.

As the first major awards show of the year, a wide-open field of contenders, and a fairly new group of voters, there was a bit of nervous anticipation in the air as everyone wondered how the night would play out.

Former Spider-Man Andrew Garfield got caught in a logjam of celebrities blocking the stairs to the main floor. He made a "get going" gesture to Zendaya, whose new ring on her left hand had onlookers buzzing. But the train of her burnt orange Louis Vuitton ballgown was proving to be its own blockade. Garfield ran to the rescue, after giving Colman Domingo a quick kiss on the cheek and grabbed the back of the train to help Zendaya navigate the stairs, and Daniel Craig and Kate Winslet exchanged hellos. Somehow Angelina Jolie and daughter Zahara made their way through the flurry, mostly unbothered.

Elsewhere, Miley Cyrus sidled up to the "Baby Reindeer" people, before finding her proper seat near Pamela Anderson and Gia Coppola.

With no TV screens broadcasting the live show it was easy to miss cues about commercials and categories. That's how Margaret Qualley accidentally missed the moment of her co-star Demi Moore's win, and moving speech.

On a different level, Daniel Craig stopped to congratulate "Baby Reindeer" winner Jessica Gunning. "That was amazing," Craig said. Gunning could barely pause to process the moment with the former James Bond before someone else was asking for a selfie.

Should one not make it back to one's seat on the main floor before the commercial break ends, pleasant security guards put up a rope and hold guests back — no matter how famous. At any given moment during the show, you could find quite a few famous faces waiting to get back to their seats. But Emma Stone, in her pixie haircut, managed to sneak by, gracefully bolting to her table as the best animated film nominees were read.

Guadagnino was not so lucky and spent the next few categories in the holding pen, letting out an excited sound when "Flow" won.

During the next category, best director, he clapped enthusiastically when Payal Kapadia's name was read. The "All We Imagine As Light" director did not win the award — Brady Corbet did for "The Brutalist."

Kate Winslet ditched her sky-high black heels as she exited the ballroom, holding them in her hand and walking bare footed on the carpet to the lobby. Many celebrities quickly made their way out of the room, some heading to after parties in the hotel, others home. Keira Knightley and her husband James Righton lingered in the lobby catching up with "The Brutalist" star Felicity Jones, while Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco fielded autograph requests from fans. —AP

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Bengal to B'luru

Priyanka Upendra's brother is the latest among actors from other states debuting in Sandalwood. Vivek Trivedi changed his name to Vinayak for UI that was directed by his brother-in-law Real Star Upendra. Trivedi has acted in more than 20 Bengali movies.

Vinayak played one of the villains in UI. His mother Samira Trivedi also played the heroine in Bengali movies some years ago. His cousin June Malia was also an actress before entering politics.

Coming from a family of film actors, Vinayak said he was very happy to get a chance to debut in Sandalwood. "I have acted in 21 Bengali movies. I play a Muslim character in UI and many people appreciated my work. Though Upendra is my brother-in-law, there were no special facilities for me. My brother-in-law's focus was on making actors act. I felt happy to see his dedication," Vinayak said. He said he has been learning Kannada through his sister Priyanaka whenever he visits Bengaluru.

Teaser unveiled

The team of Ghor Ghad released the teaser of the movie at Shukra Auditorium on Friday. The movie is about the Lambani community in Karnataka. The movie is bankrolled by DSK Dhanush Naidu, who also plays the lead in the film. Shashikumar GK from Davanagere is helming this movie. It is his fourth movie as a director.

"My father used to work as a cab driver in Hosur. Later we established DSK Group and earned fame. I have been busy with social work. I thought of helping the director of this movie. So, I decided to bankroll it," said Naidu.

Director Shashikumar said he is a singer and has sung for a music album on Puneeth Rajkumar last year.

"The movie is about the Lambani community and its traditions and customs. It will throw light on how the customs are being neglected after migration to big cities," said Shashikumar.

The director said there are more than 45 lakh people of the Lambani tribe in Karnataka but they are not able to get what they deserve from the state government. "The movie will focus on how to preserve Lambani traditions," the director said.